

Walking in “*their*” Shoes... *an experience with poverty*

Walking in “their” shoes... is a version of The Cost of Poverty Experience™ an immersive role play learning experience that gives participants an opportunity to experience poverty firsthand through the scenarios of real families who lived them. It is designed for practitioners to see what the individuals and families they serve, experience as they navigate the system of helping organizations, governmental agencies and social challenges they face living in poverty. We offer this resource in partnership with Think Tank Inc., owners of The Cost of Poverty Experience™ (COPE)

In 2024 The Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) reach a milestone Nationwide with over *100,000 who have participated in or been impacted by the Poverty Simulation (*in-person or on-line*) and the other simulation related resources offered by Think Tank. **Since 2013**, in partnership with [Think Tank Inc.](#), [Answer Poverty](#) has facilitated over (60) Poverty Simulations with over 2000 participants.

(*Think Tank 2024 Annual Report) **Local Clients Include:**

Franklin University / City of Columbus Division of Police

Dr. Chenelle Jones chenelle.jones@franklin.edu

Sgt. Keith Barker kbarker@columbuspolice.org

The Columbus City Attorney’s Office

Tiara Ross TNRoss@columbus.gov

The Graham Family of Schools

James Kutnow Kutnow1@gemsschool.org

The Ohio State University, College of Dentistry

Dr. Canise Bean (Retired) bean26@osu.edu

Rachel Whisler whisler.32@osu.edu

Supporting Research

Below is some of the research that informs the on-going development of the poverty simulation and that demonstrates the impact it has on practitioners.

National Institutes of Health

[Poverty Simulation: An Experiential Learning Tool for Teaching Social Determinants of Health](#)

Kennesaw State University

[The Efficacy of the MCAN Poverty Simulation](#) (Paper)

Freed-Hardeman University

[The Missouri Poverty Simulation: A Transformative Learning Experience for Students.](#)

The Journal for Nurse Practitioners

[Using the Community Action Poverty Simulation to Accelerate Learning About Health Equity](#)

Morehead State University

[Influence of Poverty Simulation on Educators' Social Empathy](#) (Paper)

US Department of Education

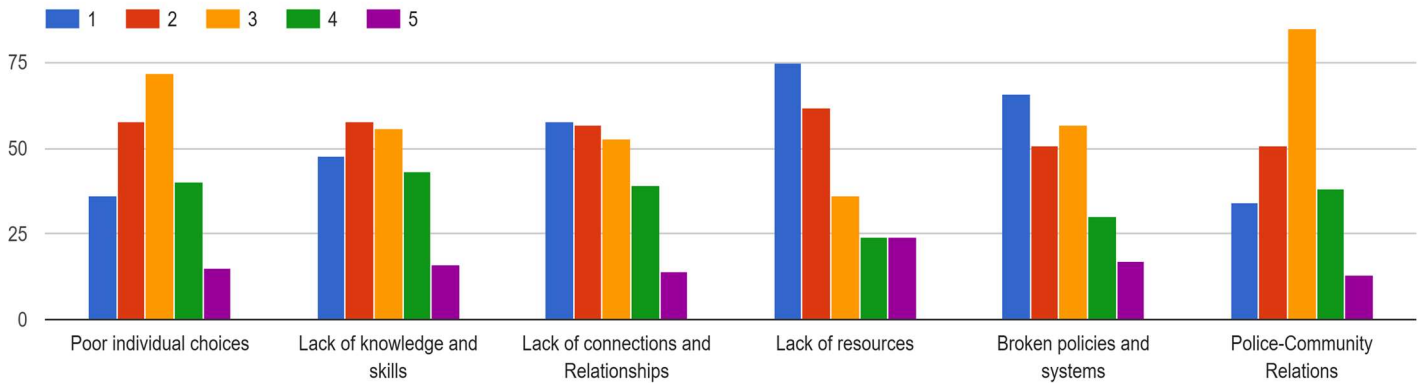
[An Examination of the Community Action Poverty Simulation in Rural Education](#) (Paper)

Answer Poverty Participant Survey Data

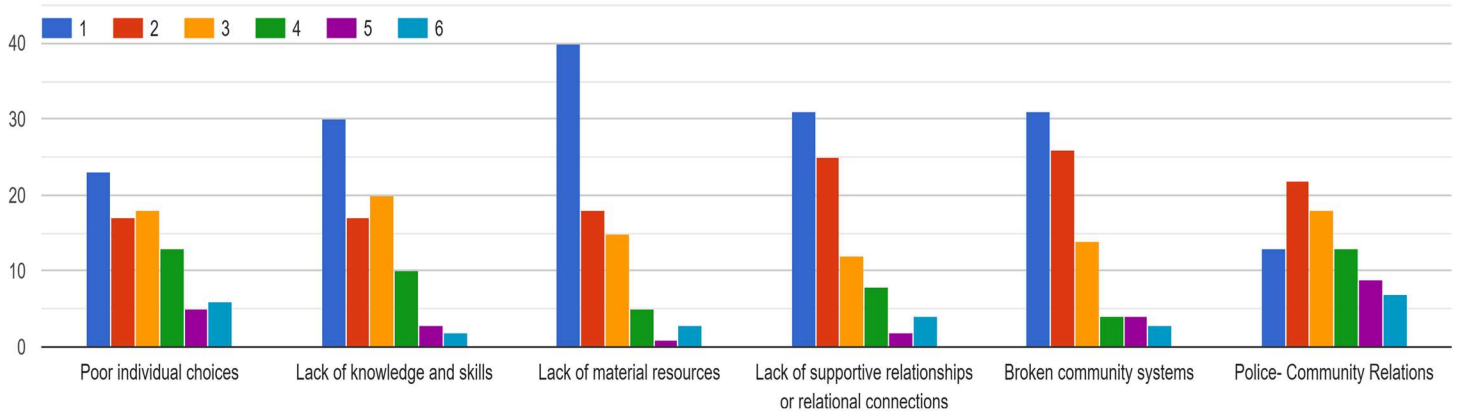
Each Answer Poverty facilitated Simulation participants complete PRE and *POST Surveys, intended to get a sense of how the brief but visceral experience with poverty impacts their thinking/perspective about poverty in their community. Below are the survey questions and results (**Note: A statistically significant fewer number of participants completed the POST- Survey*)

PRE-Survey Question: Causal Factors that influence Poverty

Please rank the following from 1 (most) to 5 (least) for how influential they generally are in causing poverty:



After experiencing your role in the COPE, please rank how influential the things listed below are in the perpetuation of poverty (1=very influential to 6=not very influential)

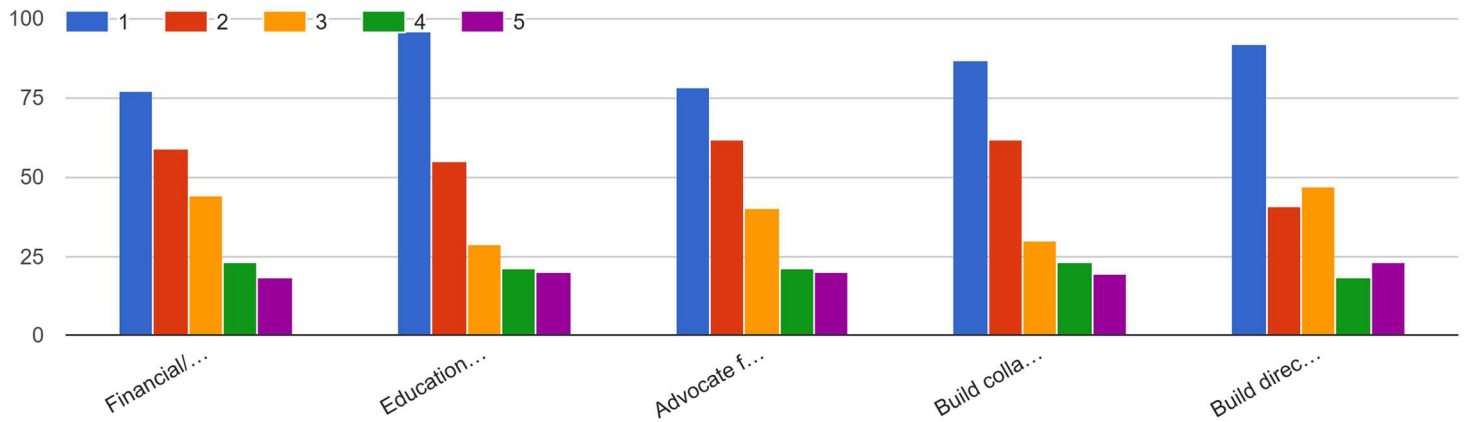


Highlights: Data indicate the while **Poor individual choices** remained constant, there is an increase in the belief that **external circumstances have a significant causal influence** causing poverty

Walking in “their” shoes... Research and Impact Data

PRE-Survey Question: Best thing our community can do to address poverty

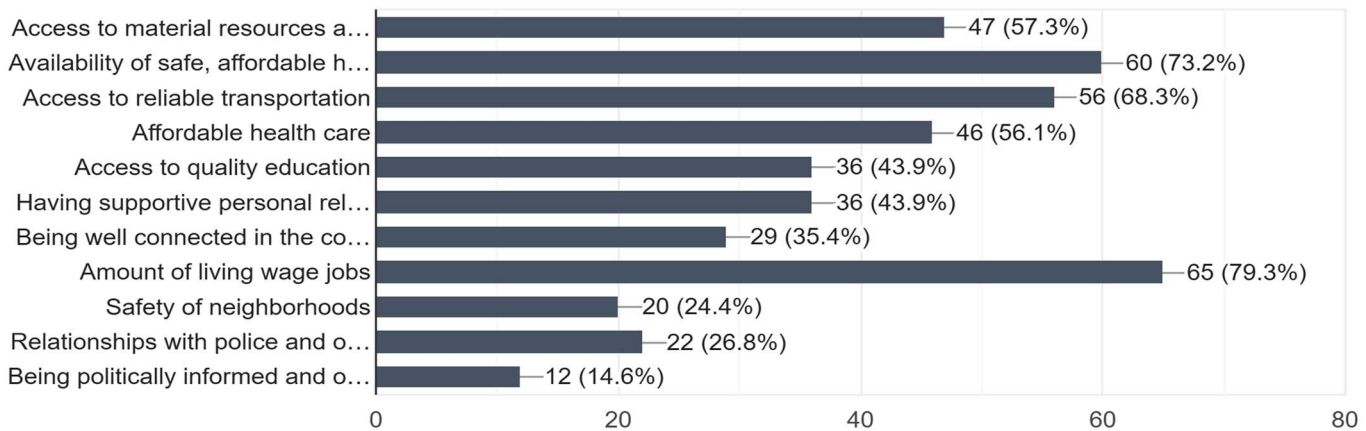
The best thing that our community can do to address poverty: (Rank the following from 1 (most) to 5 (least) for their effectiveness to address poverty):



POST-Survey Question: After experiencing your role in the COPE, of the things listed please pick 5 you believe would have the most impact in helping to address poverty:

After experiencing your role in the COPE, of the things listed please pick 5 you believe would have the most impact in helping to address poverty:

82 responses



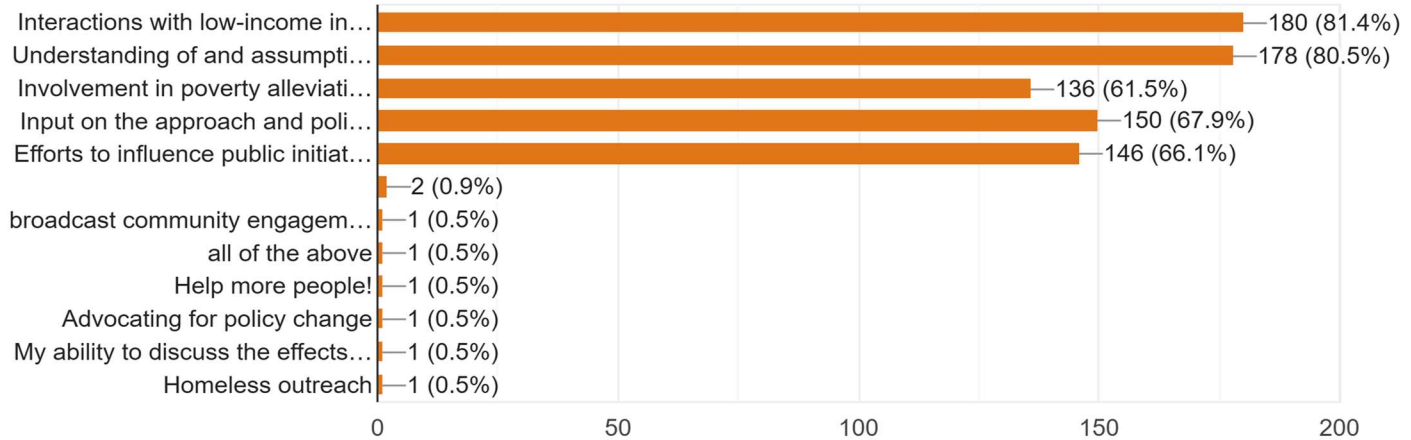
Highlights: Participants rank **1. Safe/Affordable Housing, 2. Living Wage Employment, and 3. Reliable Transportation** as these that have the most impact in helping individuals and families living in poverty.

Walking in “their” shoes... Research and Impact Data

PRE-Survey Question: My experience with COPE will likely influence

My experience in this COPE will likely influence (check all that apply):

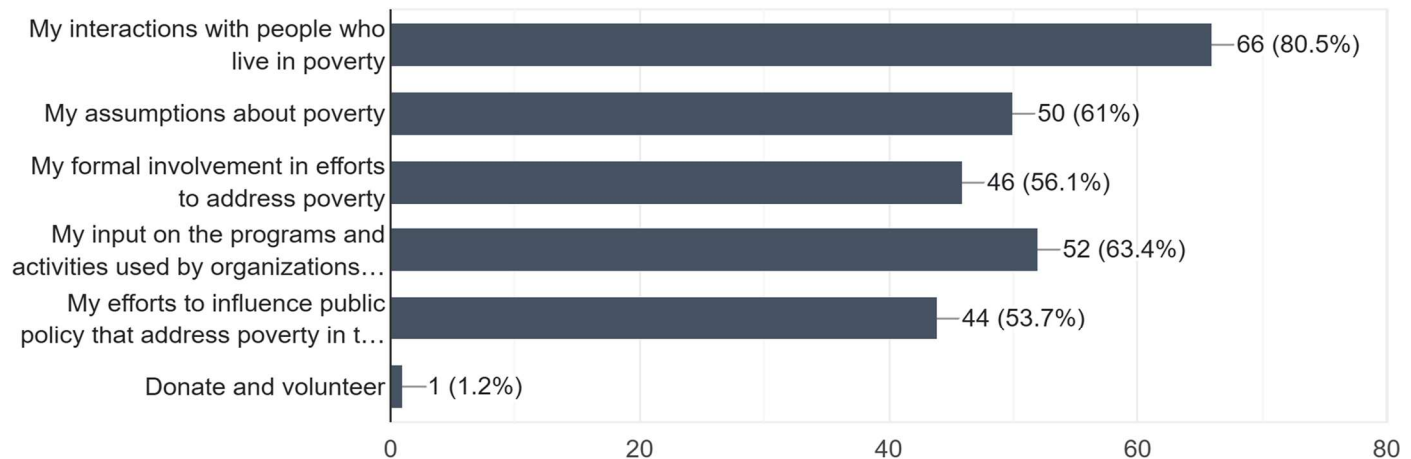
221 responses



POST-Survey Question: My experience with COPE will likely influence

My experience in this COPE will likely influence (check all that apply):

82 responses



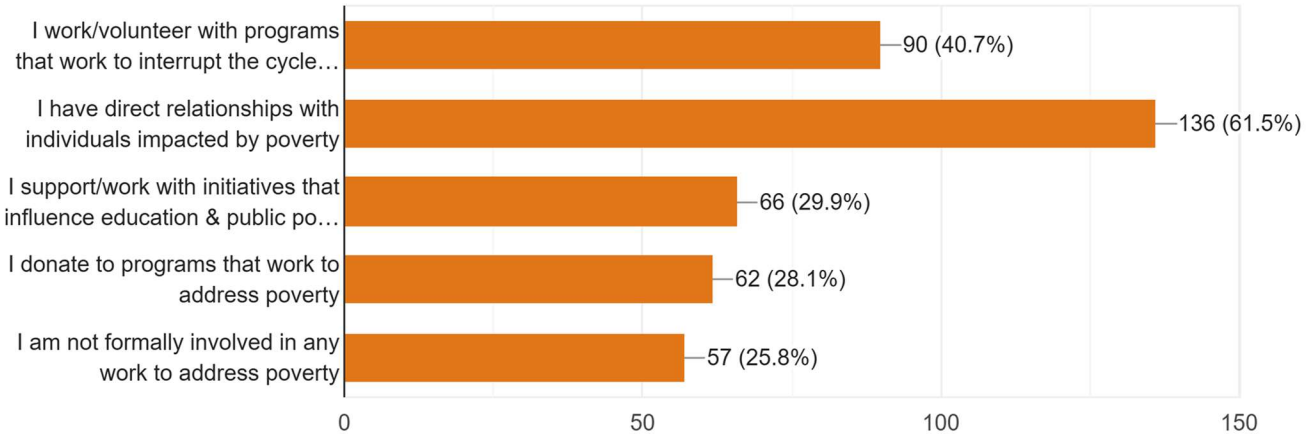
Highlights: Participants indicate that their assumptions about poverty will change, and that they will increase their effort to influence public policy around issues addressing poverty

Walking in “their” shoes... Research and Impact Data

PRE-Survey Question: Indicate specific ways you are involved in poverty Alleviation

Please indicate below specific ways you are involved in poverty alleviation (Check all that apply)

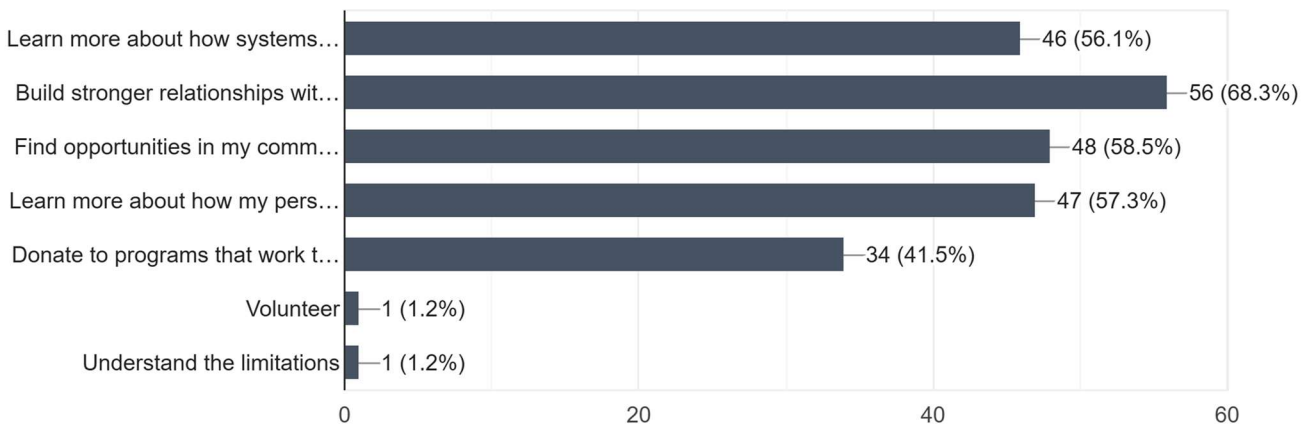
221 responses



POST-Survey Question: Indicate Specific step you’d like to take to follow-up on your experience in this training

Please indicate below specific steps you'd like to take to follow up on your experience in this training (Check all that apply)

82 responses



Highlights: Building stronger relationships with people impacted by poverty and learning how their personal and professional interactions impact people living in poverty as their main take-a-ways.